

Ohio Livestock Care Standards



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An Overview of Ohio's Livestock Care Standards
LSC/CLE
April 4, 2014

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Timeline

- November 3, 2009: State Issue 2 passes
- January 19, 2010: Legislation introduced
- March 24, 2010: Sub HB 414 passed by General Assembly
- March 31, 2010: Sub HB 414 is signed



Implementing Legislation

- 13 Board Members
 - Director of Agriculture (Chair)
 - State Veterinarian (Vice-Chair)
 - Family Farmer (3)
 - Rep. of Statewide Farm Organization (2)
 - Food Safety Expert
 - Consumer (2)
 - County Humane Society
 - Licensed Veterinarian
 - Dean of Agricultural College

Implementing Legislation Definition of Livestock

- How is "livestock" defined?
 - Equine
 - Swine
 - Cattle
 - Goat
 - Sheep
 - Poultry
 - Llama



Implementing Legislation

- In adopting rules, the Board must consider:
 - Best management practices for care and well-being of livestock
 - Biosecurity, disease prevention
 - Animal morbidity and mortality data
 - Food safety practices
 - Protection of local, affordable food supplies
 - Generally accepted veterinary medical practices
 - Any other factors the board considers necessary for the proper care and well-being of livestock in this state

901:12

Ohio's Livestock Care Standards

- 901:12-1 Euthanasia
- 901:12-2 Civil Penalties
- 901:12-3 General Considerations for the Care and Welfare of Livestock
- 901:12-4 Disabled and Distressed Livestock
- 901:12-5 Bovine - Veal
- 901:12-6 Bovine - Dairy
- 901:12-7 Bovine - Beef

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- 901:12-8 Porcine - Swine
- 901:12-9 Poultry - Layers
- 901:12-10 Poultry - Broilers/Broiler Breeders
- 901:12-11 Poultry - Turkey/Turkey Breeders
- 901:12-12 Ovine - Sheep
- 901:12-13 Caprine - Goat
- 901:12-14 Llamas and Alpacas
- 901:12-15 Equine

Communication and Outreach

- Ohio Livestock Care Standards



Published Materials



Euthanasia

- Stand-alone rule
- Intended primarily for on-farm use and all species are covered
 - Also, for emergencies (e.g., animals in transit, at fairs, auctions, etc.)
- Death is confirmed by:
 - The absence of a heartbeat or breathing for five minutes
 - Lack of blink reflex when the eye is touched
- Must be performed when the likelihood for recovery is poor

General Considerations

- Definitions (if applicable)
- Feed and Water
- Management
 - Procedures
 - Housing (indoor or outdoor)
- Health (if applicable)
- Transportation (if applicable)

Definitions

“Responsible Party”

A person of legal age who is the owner of the livestock and/or a person who has current responsibility or custody of the livestock

Definitions

“Distress”

Occurs when livestock are injured, sick or in pain

Definitions

“Pain”

An unpleasant physical sensation occurring in varying degrees of severity as consequence of injury, disease or from a medical or management procedure

Definitions

“Humane”

The care and handling of livestock that seeks to minimize distress through utilization of the livestock care standards

Feed and Water

- Sufficient quantity and quality
- Regular basis
- Colostrum / Colostrum replacement

Management

- Management practices must be performed in a humane manner
- Health/medical treatment must be done humanely
- Livestock production activities must be performed humanely
 - Acts of tagging
 - Ear notching
 - Hoof trimming
 - Deworming
 - Branding
 - Artificial insemination including semen collection, preparation and freezing

Management

- Acceptable livestock production activities (with advice and consent of a licensed veterinarian)
 - Castration
 - Tail docking
 - Non-surgical dehorning
 - Intravenous fluid administration
 - Pregnancy detection other than by rectal technique
 - Medication and biological administration, except for those prohibited by law

Castration

- Method and pain management **must** take into consideration:
 - Animal's age and weight
 - Environmental conditions
 - Available facilities
 - Safety

Dehorning

- After the horn has erupted (no longer covered by hair)
- A pain management practice **must be used**

Tail Docking

- Dairy Cattle
 - Cannot be performed before the confirmation of pregnancy
 - Permitted until December 31, 2017, with the use of elastrator castration band **only**
 - Fly management plan **must be in place**
 - Beginning January 1, 2018, tail docking can only be performed:
 - By a licensed veterinarian
 - Only if medically necessary

Tail Docking and Monitoring

- Horses
 - Only if medically necessary such as in the case of:
 - Accident, malformation or disease
 - As a proactive measure to prevent injury
 - Must be performed by a licensed veterinarian
 - Animals must be monitored for functional condition
 - If condition not maintained, corrective measures must be taken

Induced Molting – Poultry

- Only non-feed withdrawal methods may be used
- Layers, broilers and turkey breeders must be fed maintenance ration
- Light reduced no fewer than six hours in closed houses
- Light reduced no shorter than natural day length in open houses
- Monitor: Flock health, mortality and bird weight

Handling

- When using handling, sorting or other devices to move livestock or for initial diagnostic evaluation, the devices must be used humanely

Electric Prods

- Electric prods must not be used:
 - Poultry
 - Non-ambulatory disabled livestock
 - Alpacas, llamas, and equine animals
 - Except for an initial diagnostic evaluation
 - Calves weighing less than 200 lbs.
 - Swine weighing less than 35 lbs.
 - In sensitive areas including:
 - Eyes
 - Ears
 - Nose
 - Vulva
 - Anus
 - Udder
 - Testicles

Handling

- Restraint must:
 - Be minimal in degree and duration
 - Minimize the potential for injury
- Animals must not be maliciously or recklessly thrown, dropped, or dragged
- Animals must not be picked up and/or carried by the ears and tails or legs pulled such that causes distress
- Movement of ambulatory/non-ambulatory disabled and distressed livestock must be done humanely

Housing

- Must provide a clean and safe environment
- Must provide reasonable protection from adverse weather and predators
- Enclosures must be designed and maintained to minimize bruising and injury
- During labor – space to separate from other animals

Stocking Density

- All animals easily lie down at the same time and stand back up
- All animals to access feed and water without excessive competition

Veal Calf – Housing Transition

- After January 1, 2018, veal calves must be:
 - Able to turn around
 - Housed in group pens by 10 weeks of age at a minimum of 2 calves per pen
 - A group pen must have a minimum of 14 square feet per calf
 - Monitored on a daily basis for navel and cross sucking and provided with intervention

Existing Facility - Swine

- An “**existing facility**” means all buildings or structures that currently house swine utilizing any housing system as of September 29, 2011.

Swine Housing - Transition

- Ohio’s livestock care standards require that anyone raising swine in the state of Ohio transition to employing group housing methods for pregnant sows (**after they are confirmed pregnant**) by the end of the year 2025.

Swine Housing - Transition

- Breeding/gestation stalls can be used in all existing facilities until December 31, 2025
- Beginning January 1, 2026, breeding/gestation stalls can only be used **post-weaning** to:
 - Maximize embryonic welfare
 - Allow for the confirmation of pregnancy

Existing Farm – Layer

- An “**existing farm**” means as of September 29, 2011:
 - All land that houses pullets, layers or breeders utilizing any housing system
 - Any land contiguous to the “existing farm” that is acquired by the owner or operator of the “existing farm” before or after September 29, 2011
 - The sale, transfer and/or partition of an “**existing farm**” after September 29, 2011, does not void its status as an “**existing farm**”

Conventional Battery Cage Systems

- Cage floor slope must not exceed eight degrees
- Minimum 67 square inches per layer and manure must not drop on birds in lower cages
- For systems installed prior to September 29, 2011, must average 67 square inches per layer by September 29, 2016
- Existing farms permitted to expand using current cage housing systems
- Existing farms may replace the same housing system in the case of a catastrophic event
 - Fire, flood, wind, or building collapse
- Beginning September 29, 2011, conventional battery cages can only be installed on an “existing farm”

Enriched Cage Systems

- Cage floor slope must not exceed eight degrees
- Minimum 67 square inches per layer
- Manure from birds in upper cage levels does not drop directly on birds in lower cage levels
- Features must be provided in addition to feed and water
 - Areas for nesting, scratching, perching, and/or dust bathing

Cage-Free Housing Systems

- Minimum of 144 square inches per layer
- Perches:
 - Positioned to minimize fecal fouling birds below
- Multi-tiered perches:
 - Allow safe access to other vertical tiers, including the floor
- Nests:
 - Must be cleaned as necessary

Cage-Free Housing Systems

- Existing cage-free systems must meet criteria by September 29, 2016

Distress and Disabled Livestock

- Appropriate protection from other livestock, predators and adverse weather conditions
- Handling and moving must be done in a humane manner
- Maintain records of treatments, medications and withdrawal times

Emaciated Livestock

- Following documented intervention strategies of additional care, additional feed or treatment without observable improvement in body condition must be:
 - Marketed
 - Transported directly to slaughter plant
 - Slaughtered on the farm
 - Euthanized

Health

- Monitored regularly
 - Corrective measures must be taken when evidence is found
- Able to separate sick animals from healthy livestock
- Prescription and extra-label medications with involvement of a licensed veterinarian
- Label instructions must be followed, including:
 - Route of administration
 - Dosage
 - Storage
 - Withdrawal times

Enforcement

- Farms that are not currently subject to regular inspection will not be subject to any new regular inspections as a result of these rules
- These standards do not detract or expand the authority of county humane societies
 - Animal cruelty will continue to be investigated and addressed at the local level

Minor Violations/Civil Penalties

- Generally due to neglect or unintentional acts of substandard practices
- Finable up to \$500 for the first minor offense
- Finable up to \$1,000 for each subsequent minor offense committed within 60 months of previous minor violation

Major Violations

- Reckless or intentional acts which result in the unjustified infliction of pain
- Can be any action which:
 - Places an animal's life in imminent peril
 - Causes protracted disfigurement
 - Causes protracted impairment of health
 - Causes protracted loss or impairment of the function of a limb or bodily organ

Major Violations/Civil Penalties

- Finable between \$1,000 and \$5,000 for the first major violation
- Finable between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for each subsequent major violation committed within 60 months of previous major violation



Questions

- Please call ODA, Division of Animal Health
 - 614-728-6220
- Visit the Department's website:
 - www.agri.ohio.gov
- Ohio Livestock Care Standards:
 - www.ohiolivestockcarestandards.gov
